Meredith, Sir William Ralph

[Chancellor, Univ. of Toronto]

Sept. 1916-June 1917

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September 29th, 1916

Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I have made enquiries into the case of Mr. Wilkinson, and find that he has already entered upon the course that he wanted, and that his non-compliance with the requirements of matriculation mathematics simply means that he must take the mathematics of the first year, which evidently is not an undue condition. Enquiries at the Education Department have led me to a different understanding of the matter from that which you received from Mr. Wilkinson. I am informed that during the course of the examination the father asked Mr. Anglin what the regulation was and was told that he should apply to the University, so that there is no misunderstanding in this case between the Department and the University.

The father's petition will be considered by the Committee of the Council this afternoon, but I must say that I cannot see why in this case there should be a departure from practice when no hardship seems to be involved. But I am sending your letter to the Committee, which, however, I cannot attend as at that hour I am to be at the Household Science Building for the reception of Mrs. Treble's portrait.

The case of Miss McIntosh comes up this afternoon also with about ten others, by appeal against the decision of the Admission Committee. In this case owing to our reduced numbers I

Meredith, Sir William Ralph
Chancellor, Univ. of Toronto
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myself should be inclined to give favourable consideration, though it opens up a practice which we could not make permanent, as experience led us to enact the regulation as to the age for admission of occasional students.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL.
TORONTO.

Dec 16. 1916.

Dear Mr President

Although I have not very much sympathy with the movement engineered by the Students of which the visit you speak of is the outcome I shall not object to an honorary degree being conferred on Mr Garneau or upon any other of the visitors who is worthy of the honour but care must be taken I would suggest that no one who is not worthy should receive it.

I shall feel obliged if you will call the Committee together and preside at the meeting and if it is decided to confer any degrees by you conferring them.

I do not care to take part in any public function at the present time and that is the reason for preferring the request I have made.

Yours faithfully
A. H. Meredith

R. A. Falconer Esq
LL.D.

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December 15th, 1916

Hon. Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor, University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

A deputation of gentlemen representing the Entente Cordiale movement, which is intended to promote good relations between Ontario and Quebec, called on me a few days ago to ask the University to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. upon Sir George Garneau when he is in Toronto early in January along with other Quebec gentlemen for the purpose of returning the visit which was made to Quebec last September.

Sir George was Mayor of Quebec and Chairman of the Battlefields Commission. Perhaps you are acquainted with him. He is spoken of as being a gentleman who is quite worthy of the degree and he and his confreres are all strongly with the rest of the Dominion fo the prosecution of this war.

I have spoken to a number of representative univers men and they believe that the University should take action in accordance with this request. I have also spoken to several members of the honorary degrees' committee. If you are agreeable to the suggestion would you give authority to have the Committee called to consider the matter ?

The Senate, as you may remember has a rule, which has been very rarely broken, to grant no degrees in term time. The

exceptions have been as I remember it due to some special occasion. Those who are urging this degree believe that this is an exceptional occasion and that at the present time it would have a good effect in Quebec.

I would suggest that the Committee might be called for Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock at any place that is most suitable to yourself, either Osgoode Hall or my office.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

THE SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO
APPELLATE DIVISION

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OSGOODE HALL,
TORONTO.

Dec. 19th, 1916.

Dear Mr. President :

The enclosed letter dated the 13th instant from Henry M. Allan, is for you.

Yours faithfully,

W R Meredith

R. A. Falconer, Esq., CLD
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Encl.

December 22nd, 1916

Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I am writing to Mr. Allen that there is no vacancy in Economics in the University of Toronto.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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January 18th, 1917

Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor, University of Toronto.

My dear Mr. Chancellor:

I know nothing about Mr. Halliday and he may be a thoroughly good scientist. I will send his book on "Migratory Birds" to the Library, but at the same time I must inform him that it is a regulation of the Senate not to entertain applications from individuals on their own behalf for an honorary degree.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL
TORONTO

March 10. 1917.

Dear Mr President

Referring to my telephonic conversation with reference to Mr Orde I now send you his Military record.

I cannot of course expect you to withdraw the recommendations you have made but hope you may see your way to sending on Mr Orde's name with your endorsation of him subject to the recommendations you have already made.

Yours faithfully
W R Meredith

R. A. Falconer Esq
L.L.D.

March 16th, 1917

Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor, University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I have received your letter enclosing a note concerning Lieutenant Orde. It is now, I [illegible], six weeks since I sent forward a recommendation for a [illegible] [illegible] the other Battery in [illegible] Brigade, [illegible], but I have not had [illegible] [illegible] of my letter. [illegible] will have, [illegible], the Department will [illegible] with [illegible] done. In that case I shall have to [illegible] [illegible] graduate, who after [illegible] also [illegible] [illegible] very [illegible], but it is [illegible] [illegible], I am quite willing [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] cannot understand [illegible] in regard to this matter.

Yours [illegible],

President.

THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL
TORONTO

March 19. 1917.

Dear Mr President.

I desire to bring to your attention what strikes me as a singular state of things in connection with the academic work of the University. My grand daughter Jean Thorburn and Miss McFrimmon a daughter of the late Judge McFrimmon are both students of the first year and took the Junior Matriculation last Summer.

As my grand daughter was well advanced in English and French she was authorized by Professor Alexander to enter the Honour course in English and by Professor De Champs to enter that course in French. Similar authority was obtained by Miss McFrimmon except that as to English the authority was obtained from Professor Wild and both the young women have taken that courses.

They applied to take the Examination in the Honour course, not dreaming of any shortcoming being raised as to the right to do it. There

applications were lodged at least 3 or 4 days at least before the University was closed on account of the lack of coal.

Nothing further was heard of the matter until Thursday or Friday last when word came from the Registrar's office that they could not take the Examination unless on petition to the Council they were permitted to do so.

As I have said this seems to me an extraordinary state of things. That any difficulty should be placed in the way of the Examination is to say the least under the circumstances in which the honour course was taken, strange but there can be no possible excuse if the Registrar's office thought that the Examination could not be taken for delaying more than a month letting the students the difficulty they were in and I cannot help thinking these cases are a sample of what is going on it is high time that a revolution in the manner of doing business should take place.

I should probably not have troubled you about the matter but for the fact that I called up the Registrar on Saturday last and being told that he was engaged or not in the office, asked that he should when he came in or was at leisure telephone me and that was not done.

Yours faithfully
W. R. Meredith

P.S. A telegram had to be

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March 20th, 1917

Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I am very sorry that there has been trouble about your grand-daughter's examination application. I showed your letter yesterday to the Registrar, and he told me that he would write to you at once with regard to the matter. He also undertook to get me full information, and I am now enclosing you the letter which he has just prepared.

As he talked it over with me yesterday afternoon I gathered that part of the trouble is due to the fact that individual professors make promises to students without reporting them to the Registrar of the College or of the University and without having the matter attended to in the Council.

As you will see from this letter the Registrar has sent Miss Thorburn's petition to the college authorities and I hope that there will soon be a report from them that will be satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 31st, 1917

Sir William Mackenzie,

Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I have talked the whole matter of your letter over with Principal Hutton with regard to Miss Thorburn and Miss McPherson, and I have no doubt from what he says, supported as it is by the Registrar, that the granting of their petitions is a matter of formality, because principally the University will stand by what the professors have allowed students to do.

The reason why regulations for admission to honour courses have been laid down by the University is that in practice it was found that unless students are fitted to take up the honour work they both suffer themselves and bring the whole class back. Discretion, however, is used and some admissions are allowed to enter these honour classes. When professors on their own responsibility admit students and it not involves no any official act has been done, there is usually to be some criticism, and this is what happened in the present instance.

You speak of the powers of the President, as though he could interfere and have students admitted to courses against the rules that have been drawn up by the Council. As I read the Act, he does not have this authority, as it rests with the Faculty Councils to regulate the academic teaching, and if, for instance, in Medicine

or in Applied Science the President were to use this authority to relieve any student from the working of the regulations he would surely find himself in difficulties. I have always construed my authority as consisting in interpreting the regulations and in recommending to get them changed when they have proved to be unsatisfactory in their workings.

However, I do not think that there will be any further difficulty in regard to these cases, and both the Registrar's Offices in the University and in University College will I am sure be more on their guard to avoid any trouble in the future.

Yours sincerely,

President.

of a petition to the Council should be necessary or why the Students authority should not be sufficient to warrant him in giving a direction that the Student be admitted to the Examination she desires to take.

Requiring a petition to the Council involves the consequence that what is asked for may be refused and to refuse it in the circumstances of the case I am discussing would be nothing short of an outrage.

You say nothing as to the case of Miss McInnes. That Professor Wells does not recollect being given her permission to take English is of no consequence. Miss McInnes's statement that he gave it and the fact that she took the course should be accepted without question.

I am not making my protest against what has been done because my grand daughter happens to be one of the victims of the slovenly way in which the work of the institution is being conducted and as much concerned in having justice done to Miss McInnes as any other Student as I am in the case of my grand daughter.

Yours faithfully

W R Meredith

R A Falconbridge Esq
K.C. &c &c.

THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL,
TORONTO

March 21. 1917.

Dear Mr President.

I am much obliged for your letter of yesterday but the result does not strike me as satisfactory. Why in the circumstances my grand daughter should have to ask of the Council an indulgence I do not understand. What she has done under the authority of the Professors and then an honour has carried with it the right to present herself for Examination in the Subjects taught in their departments and in the honour course.

I do not understand that the difficulty that has to be properly should have put in her way is not a difficulty with the College authorities but created in the office of the Registrar of the University.

There is in my judgment far too much "red tape" in the Registrars office and a too short sight insist upon technical rules and precedents instead of treating them as flexible and adaptable to meet peculiar and exceptional circumstances.

I see no reason why all the circumlocution

Address Reply to
JAMES BREBNER,
REGISTRAR

University of Toronto

March 22nd, 1917.

H. D. Gamble Esq.,

British America Assurance Building

Toronto

Dear Sir:

I have your favour of the 21st. inst., with reference to the Course in Medicine. Early this past Session the Senate passed a Statute, which was subsequently approved by the Board of Governors under the terms of which on and after July 1918 the Medical Course shall consist of six session of eight months each,- so that the matter has been determined and that after very careful consideration. It is in line with the best Universities in Great Britain and the United States, and is now in force in the University of Manitoba. The details of the course have not been worked out, but in a general way it involves very close work in the Sciences during the First, Second and Third Years. and in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Years just as close work in connection with the hospitals on the professional side of the Course. There is no suggestion that men who are overseas should be relieved of any portion of the work. It would mean that the foundation not having been laid, the superstructure could not go up. Whether there would be any concession at the end of the course I cannot say, but the work of the First Year is so absolutely necessary that I do not see how any concession could be given at that stage.

I shall be glad to go into the matter further with you if you so desire.

Yours very truly,

James Brebner

JB/NM

Registrar

THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL.
TORONTO

March 23. 1917.

Dear Mr President

I am much obliged for your letter of the 21st Inst.

I did not intend to suggest that the President should assume to decide matters that have to be passed upon by a Council where anything serious is involved but that such a matter as the admission to Examination in a case like that of Miss Thorburn and Miss McFarlane should be dealt with by the President and if necessary I would by statute extend his powers to enable him to do it.

Yours faithfully
O R Meredith

R A Falconer Esq
C.M.G. LL.D.

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ETC., ETC.

TELEPHONE MAIN 413

TORONTO, 26th March, 1917.

CABLE ADDRESS "GAMMA" TORONTO
WESTERN UNION CODE USED

Re

Hon. Sir Wm. R. Meredith,
Chief Justice of Ontario,
Osgoode Hall,
Toronto, ONT.,

Dear Sir William,-

I enclose you a letter which I received from the Registrar of the University of Toronto and it certainly looks rather hopeless for my young friend.

I would be so much obliged if you could do something to help a most deserving young fellow. This lad was in my office for some years and he enlisted in the artillery and has been in France nearly a year. He is a most excellent and deserving young chap. He matriculated for the University and was going in for medicine and, as he points out, if this new regulation is enforced against him it will be a very great hardship to him.

I am sure that you will not resent the trouble I am giving you in so good a cause.

Yours truly,

M.L.

Encl.1.

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THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL
TORONTO.

March 28. 1917

Dear Mr President:

One would judge from the enclosed letter from the Registrar to Mr Gamble that the writer was the President and the Senate of the University rolled into one supreme whole and controlling the policy of the University. I would have thought that the duty of the Registrar was to communicate the letter to the Senate for such action as it might see fit to take with regard to the application which Mr Gamble makes.

So much for the manner in which the application has been dealt with. As to the application itself it occurs to me that it never could have been intended that the new regulation to which the Registrar refers should apply to students in medicine who had already entered upon their course or had who were in the position in which Mr Gamble's friend is. To deal otherwise with the matter would be so manifestly unfair that I cannot believe that even an academic governing body would pass such ex post facto legislation.

I shall feel obliged by your letting me know how the matter and what I shall say to Mr Gamble who has written to me asking what can be done as you will see from his letter to me which I enclose.

When replying please return the letters I send.

Yours sincerely
C. R. Meredith

R. A. Falconer Esq.
C.M.G. LL.D. &c &c
Toronto.

March 28th, 1917

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

The case of Mr. Castle's friend opens up a difficulty which I am sure we shall have to face if the war is not over by the coming summer. I do not believe that the University could in fairness make the new six years' course compulsory for those who had matriculated and were ready for entrance, but who instead enlisted and went to the front, and thereby lost their chance of beginning medicine before September 1918.

As far as I remember this subject has not been discussed by the Faculty of Medicine, and it opens up to my mind a real difficulty, because I should imagine that we should find it very hard to have a five and a six years' course concurrently. When we see how the war goes during the summer we shall be in a better position to know what we should do with regard to the year 1918. Possibly the best course would have been that the new course should not be introduced until one year after the close of the war, but when it was first discussed no one thought that the war would last so long.

We have taken the attitude throughout in regard to medicine that we cannot give at all the same credit for enlistment as in arts. Attendance at two of the three trimesters of the year have been demanded, whereas in arts the whole year is granted. I have no doubt, however, that when the war is over the Faculty of

Medicine and the Senate will have to deal with a great deal of leniency and make it as easy as possible, provided the medical standards are not to be really infringed upon, for those who have done active service at the front.

I leave to-night for New York to attend a meeting of the Alumni, and I do not expect to be back till Monday.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 3rd, 1917

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

Commencement is to be held this year on Friday, May 18th. If we are to give any honorary degrees our Committee should meet next week, perhaps on Tuesday, in order to present the report to the Senate which meets on Friday evening. Several names have been handed to me and I think in any case we should have a meeting. Will you please authorise its being called for next Tuesday at four o'clock ?

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Sir William Meredith,
Chancellor of the
University of Toronto.

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THE SUPREME COURT
OF ONTARIO.

OSGOODE HALL,
TORONTO.

June 22 1917.

Dear Mr President/

I send you a communication I have received from Oxford with reference to conferring the degree of Doctor of Music honoris causa on Rev H D Clement. Will you be good enough to reply to it?

Yours faithfully
C R Meredith

Sir Robert Falconer
K.C.M.G.
President
University of Toronto.

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June 23rd, 1917

Sir William Meredith,

Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

In the absence of the President I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter enclosing the communication from Wales on behalf of Rev. H. D. Clement.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.